



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Application of:	Attorney Docket No.: APA-0215
Yasuhide OTSU et al.	Examiner: S. M. Heinrich
Application No.: 10/507,326	Art Unit: 1725
Filed: September 10, 2004	Confirmation No.: <b>4008</b>
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING BRITTLE MATERIAL	

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop RCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**I. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits after filing the accompanying Request for Continued Examination filed and in response to the final Office Action dated March 15, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 16-24 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 17-20 are canceled, claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 14 and 16 are amended and claims 21 - 24 are added.

**II. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

(There are no amendments to the drawings)

**III. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

(There are no amendments to the specification)